AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-27. Canceled.

28.-36. Canceled.

37. (New) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comprising reacting S-(+)-aspartic acid and sodium nitrite in a hydrochloric acid-aqueous milieu in which said S-(+)-aspartic acid is suspended in demineralized water in a w/w ratio ranging from 1 kg/L to 0.5 kg/L, and concentrated hydrochloric acid is added in a ratio of S-(+)-aspartic acid to hydrochloric acid ranging from 0.35 kg/L to 0.55 kg/L in the presence of sodium chloride, said S-(+)-aspartic acid and said sodium chloride being in a molar ratio ranging from 1:0.3 to 1:0.5, the improvement consisting in isolating by precipitation of the reaction product by cooling the reaction mixture at a temperature ranging from –10°C to –20°C.

38. (New) The process according to claim 37, in which said temperature is –15°C.

39. (New) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comprising reacting S-(+)-aspartic acid and sodium nitrite in a hydrochloric acid-aqueous milieu, the improvement consisting in using as the reaction medium mother waters from a previous preparation reaction as in claim 37, said mother waters being used as at least partial substitutes for the sodium chloride and hydrochloric acid.

40. (New) The process according to claim 39, in which said mother waters are used at the precipitation temperature of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid.

41. (New) The process according to claim 39, in which washing waters are used in addition to mother waters.

42. (New) The process according to claim 37, in which the reaction medium comprises mother waters from a previous preparation reaction.

43. (New) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comprising reacting S-(+)-aspartic acid and sodium nitrite in a hydrochloric acid-aqueous milieu, the improvement consisting in using as the reaction medium the mother waters of a previous preparation reaction of claim 37, said mother waters being transferred to the reactor at the S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid precipitation temperature and as at least partial substitutes for the sodium chloride and hydrochloric acid, and said S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid is isolated by extraction.

44. (New) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic anhydride, which comprises reacting S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid and acetic anhydride, the improvement consisting in the use of crude S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid coming directly from the process of claim 37.

45. A process according to claim 37, in which S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comes directly from a previous preparation reaction.